

Perhaps these phenomena might serve as an additional inducement for you to come out here on a short holiday and personally see what a West-Indian island looks like.

Returning your kind wishes for a happy new year believe me to be always

yours truly
Loggers

S. Thomas 15th January 1880

Dear Professor Gray!

I have received your letter of 25th last year and was truly glad to learn, that you had succeeded in getting a collector for Portorico. Dr. Garber did not come by the steamer, that brought your letter, so that I commenced to fear already, he might have given up the thing, when I was agreeably surprised yesterday in seeing him come here by another vessel from New York, which had touched at several ports in Portorico. He spent the day here with me; as he did prefer to go back to Portorico the same evening in the same steamer, I had not the pleasure of his company as long as I expected. Yet seeing that he was already pretty well acquainted with our most common plants from his Florida experience, there will not have been so much lost in his going so soon, as if he had been entirely unacquainted with a part at least of the W. I. flora.

He has now gone to Ponce, where he has met with some gentlemen already, that speak English, a great desideratum for him at present, as he does not speak Spanish as yet himself. From there I think he will go round to Arroyo and Humacao, which latter place is the nearest village to ascend the Luquillo mountains from. These latter are only about 3000'

but will no doubt afford many things of the greatest interest. I was sorry to see that Dr. Garber's health seemed somewhat impaired, yet I think with a little caution he will do very well in this climate, and the mountains are not of such high or nature as to impede his exploring them sufficiently well.

I need hardly say I shall be glad to afford him every assistance in my power. I have arranged with him that anything arriving for him may be addressed to me, as also to communicate with him constantly in case he requires anything during his stay in Portorico. Moreover various steamers constantly touch at the different seaports of the island, so that he will have ample opportunity for writing home and to send off his collections as soon as desirable.

The plants collected I understand are to go to America here to be distributed among various institutions. If in determining them my services can be of any use to you, I shall of course be only too glad to have an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the Portorico flora in this way.

By a botanical friend in Copenhagen, Dr. Warming, whom you probably know by name, I have been requested to enquire from you, whether at your Museum you have specimens of Podostemaceae either in alcohol or dried, whether they have been under the subject of investigation by any botanist in your University, and finally, whether it could be arranged so that the Copenhagen Museum obtained at least the duplicates of your specimens as a loan for a short time, as the Doctor in question is working on that family and is trying to collect material for his work everywhere. I understand the family is very little known and material rare in botanical collections. I have asked Dr. Garber to have his attention directed towards it when investigating the rivers of Portorico.

Dr. G. had got a copy of my treatise from Dr. Baird, which perhaps may prove of use to him. I have as yet not received any myself, but Dr. B. had asked Dr. G. to take some out for me, unfortunately they came too late to New York.

There have been some remarkable rainfalls in the W. I. of late, a few months ago Jamaica was seriously afflicted by floods, in these latter days St. Kitts has been equally damaged by tremendous rains and many lives lost. In the island of Dominica there has been ~~an~~ volcanic eruption, which covered the town of Roseau with a layer of ashes, of which I received a sample yesterday, and of which I enclose a small portion.